

DRIVING ON STREETS WITH PEOPLE RIDING BIKES



- Drive a safe distance to the left of bicyclists (or any other vehicles) when passing them, and don't return to the right until you're safely clear of them. If the lane is too narrow to pass safely, use another lane or wait until it is safe to pass them.
- Watch for bicyclists when you're turning left or right. You must yield to oncoming bicyclists, just as you do for other vehicles, when turning left. Do not make abrupt right turns in front of bicyclists; checks to your right and behind you to be sure there are no bicyclists. Gently merge into the bike lane to make a right turn.
- Check for passing bicyclists before opening your door. Drivers and passengers can be ticketed and fined up to \$100 for opening car or truck doors into the path of any other traffic, including people biking and people walking.

* In the City of Boston, you are not allowed to stop or park in a bike lane and can get a parking ticket for doing so.

Security Tips

- Bicycles should be secured at all times (with an adequate locking device) when not in use.
- Bicycles should be secured to an immovable fixed object (such as a bike rack or other permanently fixed object.)
- If possible, secure both bicycle tires, as well as the frame.
- Recommended locking devices include either a 3 ft. length of 1/4 inch hardened chain together with a keyed type padlock of high quality having at least a 1/4 inch hardened shackle, or a common "U" style lock.
- If a "U" lock is used, position the bicycle frame and wheels so that as much open space as possible within the U-portion of the lock is filled or taken up. This makes it more difficult for a thief to use tools to attack the lock.
- If a "U" - lock is used, and it has a keyway on the end of the crossbar, position the lock with its keyway towards the ground. This makes it harder for a thief to access the lock.

Courtesy of:

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
 Level I Trauma Center
 Trauma Program



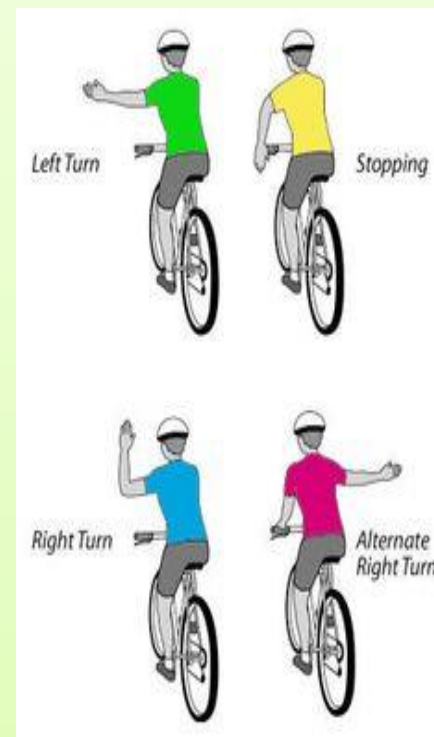
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL TEACHING HOSPITAL

BIKE SAFETY & BOSTON BIKE LAWS

City of Boston

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/boston-bikes>



RIDE Safe

Information provided from the City of Boston Website
 Contact Info: Phone: 617-635-4680
 Email: BOSTONBIKES@BOSTON.GOV

RIDING ON THE STREETS AND PATHS



You are welcome to ride a bike on all public rights-of-way within the Commonwealth, except limited access highways. You'll know you can't bike there because signs are posted.

You are required to follow all traffic laws and regulations, including stopping at stop signs and following all traffic lights, unless signs are posted otherwise. You must bike in the same direction of traffic unless the street is signed otherwise. You are allowed to pass cars on the right.

Always yield to pedestrians. When you pass a person walking, you need to ring a bell or give another polite, audible signal. You may not use a siren or whistle.

When you turn, you must use hand signals. You may use either hand to signal which direction you're going. If you need both of your hands to operate the bike safely, you are not required to signal with your hands.

You are allowed to ride side-by-side with another bicyclist, unless traffic isn't able to pass you and your friend. When you're both riding, keep to the right-most lane.

You are allowed to ride your bike on the sidewalk in Boston, but we encourage you to use the street. If you choose to ride on the sidewalk, you should ride slowly and carefully and always yield to pedestrians.

Keep at least one hand on your handlebars.

BIKE RIGHTS

- You may ride on sidewalks outside business districts, unless local laws prohibit sidewalk riding.
- If you carry children or other passengers inside an enclosed trailer or other device that will adequately restrain them and protect their heads in a crash, they need not wear helmets.
- You may hold a bicycle race on any public road or street in the Commonwealth, if you do so in cooperation with a recognized bicycle organization, and if you get approval from the appropriate police department before the race is held.
- You may establish special bike regulations for races by agreement between your bicycle organization and the police.
- You may have as many lights and reflectors on your bike as you wish.

For exact requirements, please read the complete text of the laws pertaining to bicyclists and bicycling in Massachusetts. General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 85, Section 11B.

LIGHTS AND REFLECTORS



- You must use a white light on the front of your bike and either a red light or red reflector on the rear. Turn those lights on within 30 minutes of sunset!
- Your front light must be white and visible from a distance of at least 500 feet. A generator-powered lamp that shines only when the bike is moving is okay.
- Your taillight must be red and visible from a distance of at least 600 feet. If you're using reflectors, they must be visible from the back at a distance of at least 600 feet, and they must be visible from the sides too.
- If your pedals don't have reflectors, you need to wear reflectors on your ankles.
- You're welcome to use as many extra lights and reflectors you wish.